

ABSTRACT

10 An information cell transmission method includes receiving flow control cells at a switch
11 from a collection of multicast virtual circuits and aggregating the flow control cells to form an
12 aggregate flow control cell. A network switch includes first and second port circuitry and control
13 circuitry. The first port circuitry is operative to exchange flow control cells on a collection of
14 multicast virtual circuits coupling the switch to destination nodes. The second port circuitry is
15 operative to exchange flow control cells on another virtual circuit that couples the switch to a
16 source node. The control circuitry is operatively coupled to the collection of multicast virtual circuits
17 to the source virtual circuit via the first and second port circuitry. The control circuitry includes
18 circuitry to receive the flow control cells from the first port circuitry, circuitry to aggregate the first
19 flow control cell data to form an aggregate flow control cell, and circuitry to send the aggregate
20 flow control cell to the second port circuitry for transmission over the source virtual circuit toward
21 the source node.